5. US Air
6. Japan Airlines
7. Qantas
8. Trans World Airlines
9. All Nippon
10. Southwest Airlines
11. Iberia
12. Varig
13. Canadian Airlines International

(b) and (c) Out of the 13 airlines mentioned above,12 air lines belong to countries which have Air Services Agreements with India. Decisions on operation of air services are taken by airlines based on their own perception of commercial and operational viability.

Plans of Indian Airlines to acquire aircrafts

*237. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airline plans to acquire some aircrafts on lease with an option to purchase them at later stage;

(b) if so, what are the circumstances which have necessitated this step; and

(c) what is the number of aircrafts to be acquired and capacity of each aircraft and the name of the suppliers/manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No final decision has yet been taken.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pay scale of MT drivers in MES

*238. DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Administrative Tribunal, Chandigarh Bench vide its Order O.A. No. 1493/CH/94 dated 20th April, 1994 accepting the plea of the MT drivers Association (MES) for the scale of pay at par with the MT drivers in the Defence Research and Development Organisation on the principle of "equal pay for equal work", has directed the Engineer-in-Chief, Army Headquarters, New Delhi to consider it in the light of the Supreme Court order on the subject ;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken for the grant of pay to the MT drivers in the Military Engineering Service in accordance with the directive issued by the Central Administrative Tribunal, Chandigarh Bench; and if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for dely in deciding the issue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The Central Administrative Tribunal, Chandigarh Bench (in its OA No. 1493/CH/91) has given a direction to the Engineer-in-Chief, Army Headquarters to consider the representation (filed as Annexure 'A-2' to the OA) by the applicants and pass appropriate orders, keeping in view the principle of "equal pay for equal work" and its application to the facts of the case.

(b) The Engineer-in-Chief's Branch has given a reply to the petitioners who are MT Drivers Grade II and Grade I in the Military Engineer Service that the pay scales admissible to MT Drivers Grade II and Grade I in MES are identical to the corresponding scales admissible for Civilian Motor Drivers Grade II and Grade I respectively in Defence Research and Development Organisation. There is, therefore, no discrimination in the pay scales of MT Driver Grade II and Grade I in MES as was alleged by the petitioners.

(c) Does not arise.

Ex-Servicemen in Gujarat

*239. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of ex-servicemen in Gujarat State at present :

(b) whether Government have prepared any scheme to give them opportunities for employment;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of ex-servicemen provided with employment during the year 1994-95 under the said scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (d) As on 30-9-94, a total of 8,234 ex-Servicemen are registered with Zila Sainik Boards in Gujarat. To provide re-employment opportunities in the Central Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings, following percentage of vacancies are reserved for ex-Servicemen :-

		Group 'C'	Group 'D'
(i)	Ministries/Departments . . .	10%	20%
(ii)	PSUs/Nationalised Banks . . .	14.5%	24.5%

In Para Military Forces, a reservation of 10% is also provided in posts of Assistant Commandants. Recruitment in Defence Security Corps is primarily earmarked for ex-Servicemen.

The State Government of Gujarat has provided reservation of 10% in Group 'C' and 20% in Group 'D' posts, respectively for ex-Servicemen. Besides, 25% of vacancies in Veterinary Service/Animal Husbandry Services Class I and II, which are filled by direct selection, are also reserved for ex-Servicemen.

Ex-Servicemen have also been granted relaxation in age and educational qualifications both by the Central and the State Governments for seeking re-employment.

During January to June, 1994, a total of 101 ex-Servicemen have been provided re-employment by the Central Government and 4 by the State Government of Gujarat.

Return of Kashmiri Hindu Pandits

*240. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of India and Jammu and Kashmir Administration have made any appropriate arrangements for the safe return of about 3 lakh Kashmiri Hindu Pandit Refugees to their own homes in the Kashmir valley, and also for their free and fair voting in the future elections in Jammu and Kashmir, if so, what is the action taken;

(b) whether Government have made any arrangements so far to restore back to the Kashmiri Pandit Refugee employees their civil services in Jammu and Kashmir State;

(c) if so, the details thereof :

(d) whether Government of India and Jammu and Kashmir Administration have made any appropriate arrangement for the Kashmiri Pandit Refugees of that State, for giving them due share in the governance of the Jammu and Kashmir State Administration; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) to (c) Concerted drive against militancy and various confidence building measures are being taken to restore normalcy in the militancy affected areas and to create conditions conducive to the return of the migrants including migrant employees to their homes and callings/vocations in the Valley. As regards arrangement for casting of votes by the migrants, it is for the Election Commission to make the same at the relevant time.

(d) and (e) Appointments to administrative posts in the J & K Administration are governed by well established rules and regulations in force and the Kashmiri migrants are not denied their rights and opportunities in any manner.

Cases of Uranium Smuggling

2486. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been cases of Uranium smuggling out of the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected and what are the details thereof ;

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) whether some of the smugglers belonged to Bangladesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) and (b) Reports of alleged smuggling/theft of uranium on a few occasions have appeared